

December 6, 1960

Dr. Herman N. Eisen
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Dear Herman:

Congratulations and commiserations on your new job - anyhow, lots of luck.

I don't have many useful thoughts for you for the staffing of the department that you will not have already thought of before. It is very hard to disentangle the question of desirability and availability and probably only you would have the necessary judgement as to how successfully you might push for people who are already very well established elsewhere. If you are looking at the Rockefeller Institute, why don't you think of Hotchkiss together with Zinder, which would be a more likely combination in many ways than either of them separately. At any rate, as you did ask about Zinder, I would have to say that my first reaction is that he would be rather unlikely to want to move from New York, at least possibly no more now than he was a couple of years ago when he was offered another position at Washington University, in Barry Commoner's group. Barry must have all the dope on him that you might want to look at. Zinder's recent work is almost all in virology and you should have no trouble finding it.

If you are going to pay some service to the medical orientation of your department, you might want to give some thought to Guy Meynell who has as well thought-out and constructive an approach to the dynamics of infection as anyone I knew. He has been very much under Bruce Stocker's influence, having taught with him at the London School of Hygiene, and at the present time is either at the Westminster Hospital Medical School or at the Lister Institute with Bruce. You will find some of his recent work in the Journal of General Microbiology. One of Meynell's strong assets is his wife, Elinor, who is likewise a very sweet and talented girl and is doing some very good work on the specificity of flagellar-specific bacteriophages in *Salmonella*. Like Guy, she has also taught at the London School. At the very least, you might want to ponder the possibility of making a strong offer to the Meynells to come over as a visiting professor and associate on a one or two year basis - a proposal I rather think they would accept as they are keen to come over here for at least a while - which would give all of you a chance to see how this would work on the long term. The two of them together make a very good teaching as well as research team.

I am sure you are going to want to build the department in other directions besides these fairly traditional ones of emphasis on infectious diseases but I am afraid I just do not have any very strong nominations to make to you that are coupled with probable availability.

With best wishes,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics